

William Penn's Daughters Rally Valiantly to the Government's Call for Aid

Their Patriotic Activities Range From Feeding American Soldiers En Route at Local Railroad Stations to Conducting Canteens in Faraway Flanders

By Frances Fisher Byers

Diaries, letters and other personal records of those who have lived through any epochmaking period of a nation's life always make interesting reading for succeeding generations.

In days to come, when the dove of peace shall no longer "sit on a sword," but nestle contentedly among the branches of an international family tree, the chronicle of events during our struggle for a world democracy, faithfully set down by the women of this country in the daily files of their great welfare organizations, and revealed by the correspondence between men and women who are cooperating in service, will supply novelists and historians with a valuable store of information.

The women of Philadelphia, always noted for their efficiency in progressive movements, are now proving their ability along new lines of service and setting the country an example of practical work for the army and navy.

The following report by Mrs. George W. Childs Drexel, selected at random from several hundred of like character, is a simple, unvarnished statement of work accomplished by a few of the many units of women she has organized into a canteen service numbering three

en route for a Southern camp, and that 200 stevedores would pass through three hours later from Fortress Monroe, bound for — to embark for France. The next morning the women of this unit met the first train, which proved to be taken up entirely by officers. They were supplied with ginger ale and sandwiches, as they said they did not need any heartier food. Two hours later the stevedore train came in, with 400 men instead of 200, who had had nothing to eat since the day before at noon. The officers in charge told our women that the men were getting very restless and hard to manage, and that they could not express fully their appreciation of the Red Cross canteen unit for feeding them.

All Parts of City Ready to Respond

"September —, two days later: Unit No. 8, Mount Airy (a suburb). The chairman, Mrs. E. M. Osler, had been notified and was prepared to feed ninety men of the hospital unit from Sea Girt, who would pass through the city en route for Camp —, and two hours later 150 men of the Signal Corps. The 150 arrived first; it was a distressing situation. The men said they were very hungry. Mrs. Osler sent out a call for



Prominent Philadelphia women engaged in war relief. Left to right—Mrs. George H. Lorimer, Mrs. Norman McLeod, Mrs. George W. Pepper, Miss Nina Lea, Mrs. Robert Griscom, Mrs. Robins, Mrs. Benjamin Miller, Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson, Mrs. Bayard Henry, Mrs. Groome, Mrs. Barclay Warburton, Mrs. J. Willis Martin.

PHOTOS BY WESTERN NEWSPAPER UNION

A practice football game by the 312th Infantry at Camp Dix, New Jersey, under the direction of Lieutenant Colonel Wait C. Johnson, assistant chief of staff and division athletic officer.



Mrs. George W. C. Drexel, head of the canteen service of the Pennsylvania Red Cross, extreme right, with a group of her workers at the headquarters in her town house, Philadelphia. Mrs. Drexel's organization is the most efficient canteen service in the country. Three thousand women in units of 100 are prepared to feed several hundred soldiers at an hour's notice at any point of arrival or departure in or near the city.

thousand members, under the South-eastern Chapter of the American Red Cross. It is called "Feeding the Troops." The destination of the troops is, of course, left blank, although it is given in the original statement.

"The first opportunity that Unit No. 10 had of doing this [canteen] work was September —, when I was notified in the early morning of that day that 2,200 men of the 3d Regiment were to entrain at Lansdowne (a suburb of Philadelphia), but, due to the delay in arrival of cars, the men had been twelve hours without food. Mrs. Wagar-Smith, our chairman of the Lansdowne branch, had one hundred women trained for this work. She called them into service promptly, and gave every man a warm meal. This, of course, was done because she was on the spot and superintended the service."

Forced To Be Idle Six Days

Mrs. Drexel then goes on in her next statement to deplore the fact that for six days her organization had a period of enforced idleness. "From that date, I regret to say, until September — we had no opportunity of continuing our work, as the railroads had not received their official order from Washington to give us information regarding the passing of troop trains. But at 5 o'clock on the evening of the —th we were notified over the telephone that at 8:30 on the morning of the next day 450 men would assemble at the North Philadelphia station for Camp —, having been picked up on the earlier local trains from Bristol and Chester.

"These were drafted men. Auxiliary No. 4, West Philadelphia, Mrs. C. E. Jones, chairman, gave them sandwiches and coffee. Some of the men seemed to be ravenously hungry, and finished their boxes of food before we got through distributing them. A few seemed too homesick to eat, but we learned later that the food was all eaten before they reached Camp —."

Flying Squadron Went Past at Night

"The same morning we received word that a movement of eight sections of the flying squadron was coming through the city. We could get no information in regard to the food supply, and decided to be ready with light refreshments. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon the railroad notified us that the eight sections had passed through at 3 o'clock in the morning. Mrs. William Clothier was in charge of Main Line Branch No. 1. The women immediately put the refreshments away on ice and turned their attention to the next order that came in over the wire.

"At 6 o'clock in the afternoon we were informed that at 7:30 the next morning several officers in charge of 200 men from Plattsburg would pass

help to another unit, which responded from another point in the city with fifty of its members, bringing food. When the other ninety arrived, two hours later, all, of course, were fed.

Feeds 2,200 Men Of New York Infantry

"On the same day, in another part of the city, Urquhart Auxiliary No. 3, Mrs. G. W. Urquhart, chairman, fed 2,200 of the 2d Infantry from Rochester, N. Y., at North Philadelphia station en route for Camp —, in the South. The train was four hours late. The men seemed delighted with the lunchboxes given them, and many said: 'God bless the Red Cross women,' or 'My sister is a member,' or 'My mother belongs, and she'll do this for some other fellow.'

bound for a Southern camp, with hot coffee, two ham sandwiches each, besides giving them cigarettes, matches and newspapers. One of the New Jersey cars was chalked all over with 'Berlin or Bust.' The cheers which the men gave, 'Red Cross, it's all right,' could be heard for blocks. Twenty-seven women served at this point of departure."

For two hours every morning Mrs. Drexel sits at the telephone in the private office of her home, several miles outside of the city, and receives instructions from the government and railroad officials as to the movements of the troops which will pass through or near the city. Then she gives her chairmen the orders for the day. Mr. and Mrs. Drexel have given up their town house entirely to the service for



Left to right—Mrs. Thomas Robins, secretary of the Emergency Aid of Pennsylvania; Mrs. J. Willis Martin, vice-chairman.

"To the officers, who did not need food, we gave tobacco and cigarettes. All the men handed quantities of letters and postcards to the women to be mailed. The same day Mrs. H. B. Cox, chairman of Auxiliary No. 1, Philadelphia General, gave refreshments to 2,241 men of the New York Infantry at the B. & O. station, Twenty-fourth and Chestnut streets. A large basket of peaches was given to each car, and each man received chocolate, tobacco, matches and several newspapers.

"Later, the same auxiliary fed 1,150 New Jersey troopers from Sea Girt,

the duration of the war. Mr. Drexel apparently is as much interested in the work as his wife is. With deep enthusiasm he spoke of her varied activities and her gift of organization. Two years ago Mrs. Drexel organized the Pennsylvania Woman's Division for National Preparedness. In a year there were 11,000 members enrolled. Last February the organization was merged with the Red Cross. When the Pennsylvania troops went to the border the canteen service fed 24,000 men. Since September 19 it has given food and tobacco and newspapers to 16,000.

Mrs. Drexel also started the first club for enlisted men in Philadelphia, the famous Ship and Tent Club. It has the biggest gymnasium in the city and an average attendance of 2,000 each week. Dances are given and some form of entertainment for the men every night.

The letters which Mrs. Drexel receives daily from all parts of the country from wearers of the uniform would if compiled fill many volumes, and some day after the war will make a story of intense human interest. Brief quotations from a few express the sentiment of thousands of others.



Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson, chairman of the French War Relief Committee of the Emergency Aid of Pennsylvania, who was the first woman in the U.S. to be decorated by the French government for her work. She has been for many years the recognized leader of Philadelphia's exclusive social set and foremost in progressive movements in the city and state. She is president of the Acorn Club and a former president of the Civic Club. She also finds time to be literary editor of "The Philadelphia Ledger."



Around the fire place at Y. M. C. A. headquarters, Camp Dix.

"boys" each week, is worthy of many newspaper columns. Of the United Service Club, Commander Favre, who is in charge, says: "When we opened this house we tied the front door key to a balloon and it was 'lost in the clouds.'"

To the energy and resourcefulness as well as kindly graciousness of the commander is due largely the tremendous popularity of the club among the enlisted men of the army and navy, so Philadelphians will tell you.

The Emergency Aid of Pennsylvania is another powerful organization composed of women noted for their practical patriotism. The chairman is Mrs. A. J. Cassatt. Of the vice-chairmen, Mrs. J. Willis Martin, Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson and Mrs. Edward T. Stotesbury are probably the best known in connection with other lines of work. Mrs. W. J. Clothier is chairman of the ways and means committee. Mrs. John C. Groome, of Home Relief for Montenegro, has the unique distinction of having a fund which she cannot spend

Mitchell residence, the home for so many years of the famous nerve specialist, who in the later years of his life became well known as a novelist. The rooms are filled with interesting relics and pictures. When the Belgian commission visited this country its members first called upon Mrs. Henry to pay their respects before making any official calls, in recognition of her valuable services to the Belgian cause, both in our own country and abroad. She has also been in personal correspondence with King Albert and the Queen, who have repeatedly expressed their appreciation of her work. Perhaps the most interesting letter which she received, and which never before has been published, is one of several from Cardinal Mercier. It was dated Malines, May 6, 1917. The translation from the French reads:

"Dear Madame: "Many weeks ago, as soon as I learned that you had been so kind as to organize a committee to come to the aid of the ever increasing needs of our population, I hastened to address you a token of my profound gratitude, but I learned to-day that my letter did not reach you until now. Tardily, but with all my heart, I beg you to accept the expression of my gratitude. Our people, who for three years suffer with a patience which nothing can shake, who, under the odious rule of deportations have preferred to suffer hunger, cold and exhaustion rather than sign a 'voluntary' contract of work for the enemy's benefit, these people are worthy of the regard and the respect of generous souls.

"I understand, dear madame, that the noble nation so enamoured of loyalty and liberty and to which you have the honor to belong, holds its eyes fixed on our suffering people. In the homes where I have the consolation of bringing your help, fervent prayers go up to heaven for our benefactors and particularly for the dear Belgian Relief Committee of Philadelphia, which owes its existence and vitality to you.

"May I send, dear madame, this very modest photograph as a temporary token of our very earnest gratitude?"

"D. J. CARDINAL MERCIER, "Arch. de Malines."

Collects \$600,000 In Two Years

One of the most effective organizations for relief abroad directly sustained by American women here is the French War Relief, of which Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson is state chairman. It has nine sub-committees, each one raising its own funds. In two years \$600,000 has been raised altogether. Three hundred hospitals have been helped. Mrs. Stevenson is the first woman in the United States to be decorated by the French government for war work.

"Recently," said Mrs. Stevenson, "owing to the uncertainties caused by the American Red Cross threatened regulations eliminating volunteer organizations, the French War Relief Committee has turned its attention to the reconstruction of a village, Villequier-Aumont, in the neighborhood of Chauley, one of the most completely destroyed localities of the devastated zone. Mrs. J. Willard Rodgers, of this city, is head of the committee on reconstruction. With Mrs. Rodgers in France are Miss Richards, of San Francisco; Miss Hayden, of Overbrook (a suburb of Philadelphia); Miss Miel, daughter of the former rector of the French church here. Miss Richards and Miss Hayden went over in charge of the truck and Ford car as drivers. Miss Miel has charge of the clerical work of the committee. Miss Julianna Wood, who went over last spring, will soon join Mrs. Rodgers in Paris.

"Miss Ella Church, a trained nurse, will soon sail with Miss Christine Biddle," she continued, "to look after the women and children of Villequier-Aumont and to establish a temporary dispensary, with a view to helping the returning women and children, who are said to be in a deplorably run-down condition. Miss Church will be a great addition to the Philadelphia party. She represents a noble gift toward the reconstruction of the village from Mrs. Grahame Wood, who has undertaken the financing of that portion of the work. Miss Biddle, who goes with her, has prepared herself for nursing under the American Red Cross, and will be an able assistant, especially on account of her proficiency in the French language.

Will Conduct Army Canteen in Flanders

"At the request of the commanding general in the army corps nearest the locality, the committee, in cooperation with the Young Men's Christian Association, is also establishing a canteen at the village. Mrs. George Biddle and Mrs. Donnell Swan, of Baltimore, are now on their way to begin this work. Miss Ruby McCormick, the Comtesse de Sainte-Aldgonde, her daughter and her niece, the young Duchesse d'Uzes, will work with the Philadelphia party. Miss Bewick, of Georgia, stepsister of Colonel Donnelly, Artillery Corps, U. S. A., will join these workers. She is an expert chauffeur.

"This is but an outline of the work that has been done thus far," added Mrs. Stevenson. "I have not gone into the details of the stores of agricultural implements, animals—cows, pigs, chickens—clothing, and, in fact, supplies of all kinds that have been collected for the work here in America. Mrs. William Supplee has given the money to build and reestablish the village school, as a memorial to her sister-in-law, Mrs. Gertrude Longstreth. Several other kinds of work are being undertaken, and when the war is over it will be found that the women of this city have done their share of war service and have not been found wanting at any time or in any place, either in this country or abroad."